

# ACRIMONY



Reporting on the Alternative, Gothic, and Paranormal Scenes

<http://www.Acrimony.org>

August 2003

Volume I

Issue I

\$3.00

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## Premiere Issue!



**CT Thompson**  
Editor

Welcome to the first issue of *Acrimony*. This publication is dedicated to delivering top-notch news and information to your desktop. Each month a wide variety of topics will be covered including the Alternative, Underground, and Gothic scenes. Additionally we'll take a look at the Paranormal and the occasional alien abduction.

One of the things that will make *Acrimony* unique is that we will encourage article writing by our readers. We'll also compensate our budding young writers for their efforts. *Acrimony* will pay \$10 for articles that we publish, \$5 for poetry, and \$5 for comic strips, satirical cartoons, or other artwork. These rates aren't exactly bank busting, but it's our small way of rewarding our contributors. Look for details in this issue on how to submit your work.

As for this first edition of *Acrimony*, consider it a potpourri issue with a glimpse of things to come.

## What is Goth?



by **Scarlett Crawford**  
[scarlett@acrimony.org](mailto:scarlett@acrimony.org)

*Woe is me. My cape is wet and my mascara is running. I am crying for no one understands me.*

Goth can be a type of music, generally dark, somber, and entrancing. Your basic clad

in flowing black velvet, a cape, black lipstick, and if possible alabaster skin is the mage of a Goth. There is also the Goth attitude; morose, dramatic, introspective, and obsessed with death and the darker side of life. Typical interests of Goths are the paranormal, vampirism, medieval, Victorian and Edwardian history, poetry, the arts, BDSM, and sometimes posting on Internet Goth lists. It has been my experience that the members of this subculture are of a higher intelligence than the general population. Goths frequent such places as the local cemetery, Gothic dance clubs, tattoo and piercing parlors, and *The Rocky Horror Picture Show*. Basically if it is dark and dreary Goths will congregate there.

There is much more to the Gothic movement than trench coats and guns, no matter what the popular media would have us believe. The Columbine students didn't kill because they were Goth. Listening to *Sisters of Mercy* won't make you the next Jeffery Dahmer.

There have been three surges in the history of the movement. The first was back in the early 80's when bands like *Siouxsie and the Banshees* and *Bauhaus* gained exposure. The punk movement was coming to an end and a new sound was emerging. The music was darker and more ambient. Siouxsie is generally viewed as the mother of the culture and is credited with having first coined the term "Goth."

The second resurgence was in the late 80's with the emergence of bands like The Cure and London after Midnight. This was when Goth became a recognized culture and the moniker became commonplace. The members of this era are now commonly referred to as "old school."

In the mid 90's the third movement

came upon us. Bands such as Marilyn Mason have brought the spotlight to the Goth scene and created a rift in its midst. The two older movements seemed to enjoy the anonymity that was to be had in their time. However, the Mansonites seemed to bask in the limelight and actually sought the newfound attention. This latter group has had to date the largest following, due mainly to the greater availability of music and communication with peers via the Internet.

What is the future of Goth? Considering that it had its first rumblings back in the late 70's and is still going strong twenty plus years later, I would say that Goth has created a niche for itself in today's society that will not soon be abandoned. As I sit and watch my oldest child I realize my place in all of this. I will simply grow old and await the forthcoming waves that are brewing out there in local elementary and middle schools everywhere.



Photo courtesy of <http://www.lilgothling.com>

## Acrimony

August 2003 - Volume 1 - Issue 1

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### Published by Lava Marketing

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## How to submit your work to Acrimony

Acrimony encourages and thrives on reader contribution. Acrimony will pay you \$10 for each article, \$5 for poetry, and \$5 for comic strips, satirical cartoons, or other artwork which is published. Space in Acrimony is severely limited and Acrimony cannot guarantee publication of all content submitted.

There are 3 steps to getting your work in Acrimony.

- 1) E-mail your content to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org) or mail it to Acrimony, P.O. Box 18330, Phoenix, AZ 85005.
- 2) Include an email or written letter stating that you own all of the rights to the content and grant Acrimony the right to publish the work.
- 3) Payment for work published is handled through PayPal.com. Include in your correspondence your PayPal account name. If you do not have a PayPal account, you can sign up for free and PayPal will give you \$5 just for doing it. To sign up for PayPal go to <http://ad2.acrimony.org>

# Editorial Page

## Nothing in Life is Free

Welcome to the first issue of Acrimony. This publication has been a long-time dream of mine and it pleases me greatly to see it finally published. I hope you will find as much joy in reading it as I have found in publishing it.

As you are probably aware, if a piece is published by Acrimony, the contributor is compensated for the work. The compensation rates are not very much right now, but there is great hope the rates will be raised in the future. This is one of the things that I think sets Acrimony apart from other web publications. Most organizations want you to give them your work for free. We'll pay.

Now if you're wondering where the funds come from to pay you, I'll let you know right upfront - it's the advertising. Acrimony is free, but it is ad supported. These ads cover the publication costs and payouts to the contributors.

Great care has been taken in selecting the advertisers for Acrimony. An advertiser was chosen only if it was felt that advertiser would appeal to the audience of this publication. By supporting the advertisers, you ensure the future of Acrimony.

Nothing in life is free. Its all a series of tradeoffs.

If there is something that you would like to see in a future issue of Acrimony please let me know. Feedback is very important in developing a publication of this type. Good or bad, I want to hear from you. Also, if you read an article that you really like, please contact the author and let them know.



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CT Thompson'.

**CT Thompson**  
Editor-in-Chief  
editor@acrimony.org

## Heaven or Hell? It's Your Choice...

Heaven or Hell...it's your choice is a new ebook describing the probable impact technology will have on both society and the global economy. It is free to download and only if you like what you read will you be asked to pay.



<http://ad5.acrimony.org>

## To the Editor...

**Letters are slim this month, being the first issue and all. However there were a few worth printing. Send your letters to [editor@acrimony.org](mailto:editor@acrimony.org)**

I am happy to hear that Acrimony is up and running. I miss Vampire Radio, and am glad to see that this has risen from the ashes of that venture's untimely demise.

*Dan S.*  
Phoenix, AZ

Can't wait to see it flourish...and invade...and procreate....

*Steve M.*  
Hollywood, CA

Something like this has been a long time in coming. Thank you for putting together this publication!

*Bill M.*  
Denver, CO

# Featured Band



## TOSSED TO THE VAMPIRES

by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

When dark pop group Darling Violetta formed in 1996, the last thing they were looking for was to be embraced by the vampire community. Two years later they performed a song on the Warner Brothers television show *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and a year after that landed the theme song to the spin off series, *Angel*.

Lead singer Cami Elen met guitarist Jymm Thomas in 1995. The two performed together at local coffee houses in Los Angeles endeavoring to shape their sound and pull more members into the mix. Atto Attie (bassist) and Steve McManus (drums) soon joined the duo. All they needed was a name.



*Violetta*. It was written to an actress that he had worked with in Europe. This curious coincidence possibly sealed the bands fate as a magnet for the vampire masses. However the band was still incomplete. The quartet needed

“It was a happy kind of coincidence, we actually just came up with the name ... Then I went on the Internet, just kind of looking around making sure no one else had anything too similar, and the first thing that came up was this poem,” said Jymm in an interview with Vampire Radio. The poem was written by Bela Legosi and titled *My Darling*

to become a quintet since Cami only did vocals.

“And then we decided that we needed some other element, and that’s when we decided, why don’t we try cello instead of second guitar,” says Cami. It didn’t take long and the band knew it had hit upon a winning combination.

In 1997 Darling Violetta released *Bath Water Flowers*, their first E.P. It met with warm reviews in the L.A. area but failed to push out much further. Darling Violetta needed something to help elevate their recognition.

The group shared rehearsal space with Four Star Mary, the band that supplied all of the music for the fictional Buffy group *Dingoes Ate My Baby*. Four Star did the songs, actors pranced around and pretended to sing on T.V. It was through this friendship that Darling Violetta met John King, music coordinator for the show.



“So we gave him a package, and then I forgot about it. About a year later, John called.” Tells Cami. The band was on. They landed a spot on *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. This development introduced Darling Violetta to a new mass of people: *The Bronzers*. They took Darling Violetta in wholeheartedly.

Small changes happened with the band. Darling Violetta’s original cellist was replaced with Gerri Sutyak. The band started doing more and more shows in the L.A. area. Darling Violetta soon earned a reputation for stunning and electrically charged live performances.

In 1999 the band scored the theme song to the *Buffy* spin off, *Angel*. This was the last nail in the coffin. Darling Violetta was now forever linked with vampires around the world.

It was time for a new album. To this point the group had only 6 tracks down on tape. *The Kill You E.P.* was released in January 2000 and added five new songs and two remixes to their recorded repertoire. A video for the single *Spoiled and Rotten* soon followed.

The new E.P. couldn’t have come at a better time. Fans of the television show *Angel* set out to discover its haunting creators. Darling Violetta was introduced to new audiences worldwide. College radio ate the group up alive, playing their music all over the country.



For the next two years the group played local L.A. clubs refining their style and working on new music for an eventual full-length album. In 2002 the band finally entered the studio and began laying down tracks for *Parlour*. It was during this period that the group said goodbye to longtime bassist Atto, who returned to Mexico to spend more time with his family. He was replaced with Chris Pott.

*Parlour* was released in early 2003. The album was a musical advancement for the group. It contained long-time fan favorite songs *Beautiful*, *A Smaller God*, *Over You*, and *Candy Jones*. The new tracks also placed less of an emphasis on cello, which had been up to this point, the bands trademark.

So what does the future hold for Darling Violetta? It's hard to tell. Many thought that by now the band would have risen above the murk and mire that surrounds the L.A. band scene and drowns many groups into obscurity. The band is still fighting tenaciously for the elusive "major deal" which will put them on the map and on every rock/pop station in the country. They've got the talent. They've got the heart. Time will tell if they get the deal.



Official Website: <http://www.darlingvioletta.com>

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Advertising in Acrimony is both economical and effective. You or your business can reach a very specific niche, the gothic community.

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## ***Demons***

Demons are to be locked away  
 Never to stain the beauty of the light  
 With their darkness,  
 Never again to see the day.

But there was a time when  
 Demons were Angels  
 Before the fall of pride,  
 Before their beautiful wings  
 Turned black and tepid,  
 When they could loft their spirit  
 And others  
 To the doorstep of God.

But pride took that away  
 And like all things, turned it black  
 Their blood running dark  
 Without the life giving light.

They are too dangerous  
 To be loose!  
 Who knows what evils they will bring!  
 They can never be beautiful again!  
 Look at their teeth and mouth,  
 In such disarray, so dirty!  
 Who would kiss such as this?!  
 How could it smile?!

The smell of such things  
 Is so strong  
 How could mere bathing  
 Take it away?

Their wings are crooked  
How could they fly?  
Dirty and oily they foul  
The very air they move in!  
How could we even dream  
That they could take flight  
Or that God would  
Accept them on his door?

So they must stay locked away,  
Never again to see the day,  
So we will stay safe  
And never know.

by **A Kristan**

[akristan@sluggy.net](mailto:akristan@sluggy.net)

<http://nightsounds.150m.com>

## **Multi-Dimensional Existence**



by **CT Thompson**

[ctthompson@acrimony.org](mailto:ctthompson@acrimony.org)

We live in a three dimensional world. We have height, width, and girth. Our experiences and perceptions are all based in this three dimensional existence.

Two dimensional existence would include width and height, but no girth. An example would be a piece of paper or a computer screen. One dimensional would have length, but no width or height, a straight line.

We are three dimensional yet can interact with one and two dimensional worlds. These dimensions are unaware of us except that we can interact with them. Would it not be arrogant to assume that there are not dimensions beyond the third?

Consider the fourth dimension to be that of space-time. To us time is linear. It moves straight forward at a set pace and we have no control over it whatsoever. A fourth dimensional existence would have our attributes of height, width, and girth, but also be able to pass through time in a non-linear fashion. The space aspect would mean matter as we know it would change, most likely existing in an energy form.

Just as we can interact with two dimensional worlds but not exist within them, a fourth dimensional

existence would be able to interact upon the third dimension but never truly be a part of it. Consider this is where we pass on to when we die.

Are you with me so far?

Since the fourth dimension does not pass through time as we know it, but is a part of all time, it would mean that we would exist in the third and fourth dimension simultaneously. At first this is a hard concept to grasp. That's because we are time linear beings. It's hard for us to understand time in a non-linear fashion. But if a dead person is in the fourth dimension, a part of all time, then that means that person also exists at a point in time when they were alive in the third dimension.

This could explain a great many things. Have you ever met someone with whom you were absolutely certain you knew before? Perhaps a soul mate or kindred spirit? The connection you are feeling could be attributed to being involved with that person right now, in a higher dimension. This would also include people who absolutely repulse you, or who you want to put as much distance between as possible. There may be strife between you and this person at other levels. People who have psychic abilities may just be in better touch with themselves, as they exist in higher dimensions where time is not linear, giving them insight into future events. Pendulums, Tarot Cards, Ouija Boards, and other divination devices would communicate with and be the link to this inner self.

Of course, if a fourth dimension exists then that opens the door to infinite dimensions beyond the fourth. Each incremental dimension would be harder and harder for us to grasp. Or maybe we just turn into worm food when we die.



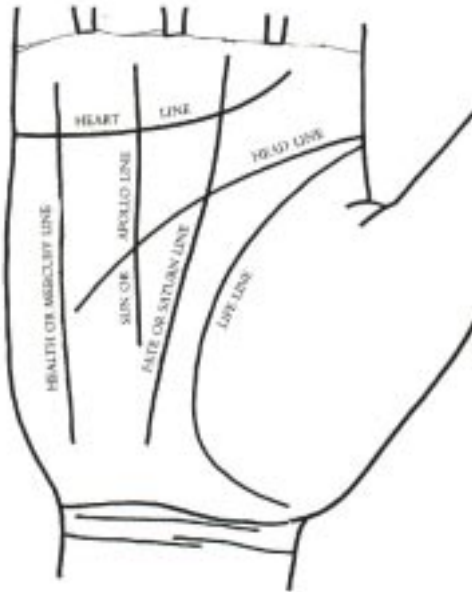
### **Sky Watch**



SkyWatch provides a personalized, on-line sky calendar by sending email to its subscribers about satellite passes that can be seen from their location. It also keeps them informed about meteor showers, eclipses and other astronomy news.

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# Palmistry



Palmistry is an ancient method of divination and character analysis where the shape, size, color, and markings on the hands and their parts are used to determine human personality and fate.

The hand one uses to write with is their dominant hand. The lines on this hand can change throughout the years. Lines can grow longer or develop certain characteristics.

The other hand is the destiny hand. It generally remains the same throughout a lifetime.

## History

The earliest documents with the word palmistry included were published in 1420 by John Lyndgate in his *Assembly of Gods Documents*. The first publication on Palmistry was Michael Scotts *DE PHISIOGNOMIA* published in 1477 on the anatomy of the human body. His work included a chapter on all the aspects of the human hands.

During the 17th century, many books were written that included the early gypsy ideas concerning palmistry. This lore had been handed down by the gypsies generation to generation since the early 15th century.

During the 18th century, books were written which blended both scientific and spiritual information concerning the hands. Since then, Palmistry has been aligned with the notion that a person read the hands with a scientific eye and spoke with intuition. Palmistry evolved into a

form of divination that was as unique as the hands.

## Time Line

The art of palmistry goes back as far as 13,000 BC. Pre-historic caves in Santander, Spain display hand drawings of the palms with some of the major lines portrayed in amazing detail.

## Hand Shape

To determine your hand shape, measure the length and width of your palms. If these measurements are about the same, you have square palms. If your palms are longer than their width, you have rectangular palms.

Next, compare the length of your middle fingers to that of the length of your palms. If your middle fingers are as long or longer than the length of your palms, they are classified as long. If they are shorter than the length of your palms, they are classified as short.

## The Earth Hand

### Square palms and short fingers

You are a stable practical person who does not like to be hurried and who prefers to go with the current rather than swim against it. You are honest, fair-minded, and conservative. You have a good measure of common sense. You don't give your affection or loyalty easily, but once you do, they are given to last.

You do not have a fast-working, intellectual mind. It takes you time to make decisions and to understand things that are at all complicated. This is why you both work and study best when you can proceed at your own pace. But you do have an excellent memory, which is why forgetting past wrongs is so hard for you. Your attitude towards life is generally optimistic.

You are happiest when you know where you are and where you're going. Uncertainty upsets you, as does sudden an unexpected change.

Your unadventurous nature makes you a stay-at-home, careful sort of person, who is happy with the known and the familiar and suspicious of the foreign and the different. You are materialistic.

## The Air Hand

### Square palms and long fingers

You enjoy using your mind. You love absorbing new facts, studying for examinations, and keeping abreast of what is going on in the world. You need to talk and share your ideas and opinions with others. You welcome intellectual challenges.

You are an independent soul who is happiest when you are doing your own thing. You work best on your own, although you can function well in a team if others look up to you. To you, knowledge is power.

You're neither very practical or interested in working with your hands. But because you can see how things should be done, you make a competent organizer or teacher. You love to pore over maps and plans, interpreting them and telling others what to do. Your desired title is "Director of Operations."

You tend to be unpredictable and contrary. Changing your mind is something you do frequently and without embarrassment. You sometimes have trouble connecting with your emotions. In fact, you are rather frightened of your feelings and of the irrational pressures they produce.

You look down on those whose wits are less agile than your own. Because human relationships are based on more than intellect, your interactions with others are often less than ideal.

## The Fire Hand

### Rectangular palms and short fingers

You have very high energy and enthusiasm. You are restless, outgoing, and ambitious. You don't like standing still. You want to rise in the world, to achieve and become more successful. You believe in getting out there and going for what you want.

You dislike authority and are always happy to cock your nose at it. You thrive on excitement and adventure. You enjoy taking risks and generally doing what you shouldn't.

You get on well with others. Its true you're rather big-headed and loud-mouthed, but you're also warm and sympathetic and love to laugh.

But while you're a good starter, you tend to burn yourself out rather fast. This is why you are best at tackling those schemes and projects that can be finished quickly or which can be handed over to others for completion. You lack the necessary stubbornness and tenacity for the losing fight, and you're quickly bored.

You like to be in the spotlight, to be at the center of things where the action is. You're often a trendsetter and most likely follow fashion and the latest fads. You enjoy going to dances and parties that are noisy and lively.

You dislike being alone and your desire for company can sometimes get you into trouble, bringing you into contact with the wrong sort of people. You are rather selfish and can be aggressive and demanding.

## The Water Hand

### Rectangular palms and long fingers

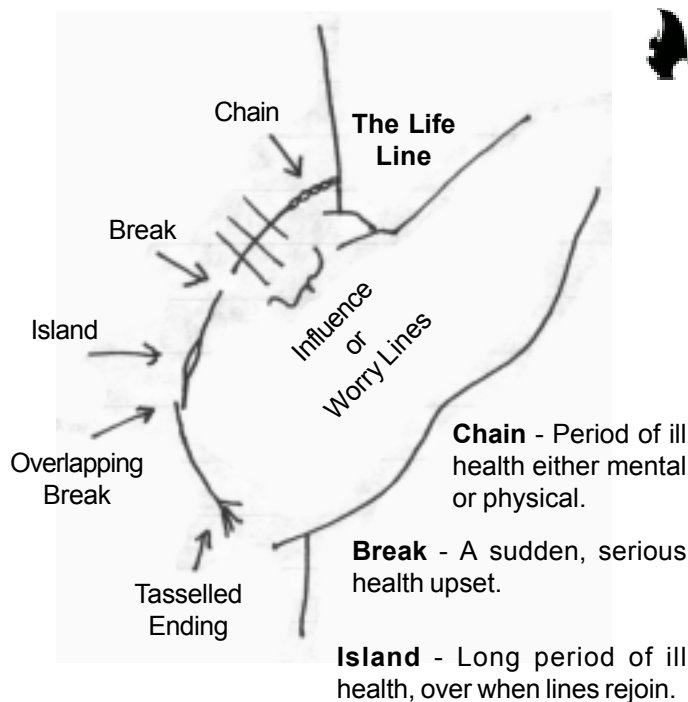
You are quiet, reserved, and diffident. You probably don't have any burning ambitions. You are content to remain where you are until acted upon by events or other people. You are not pushy or a go-getter. Your difference and caution is caused by your lack of confidence, which is why it is important for you to live in a stable, familiar environment.

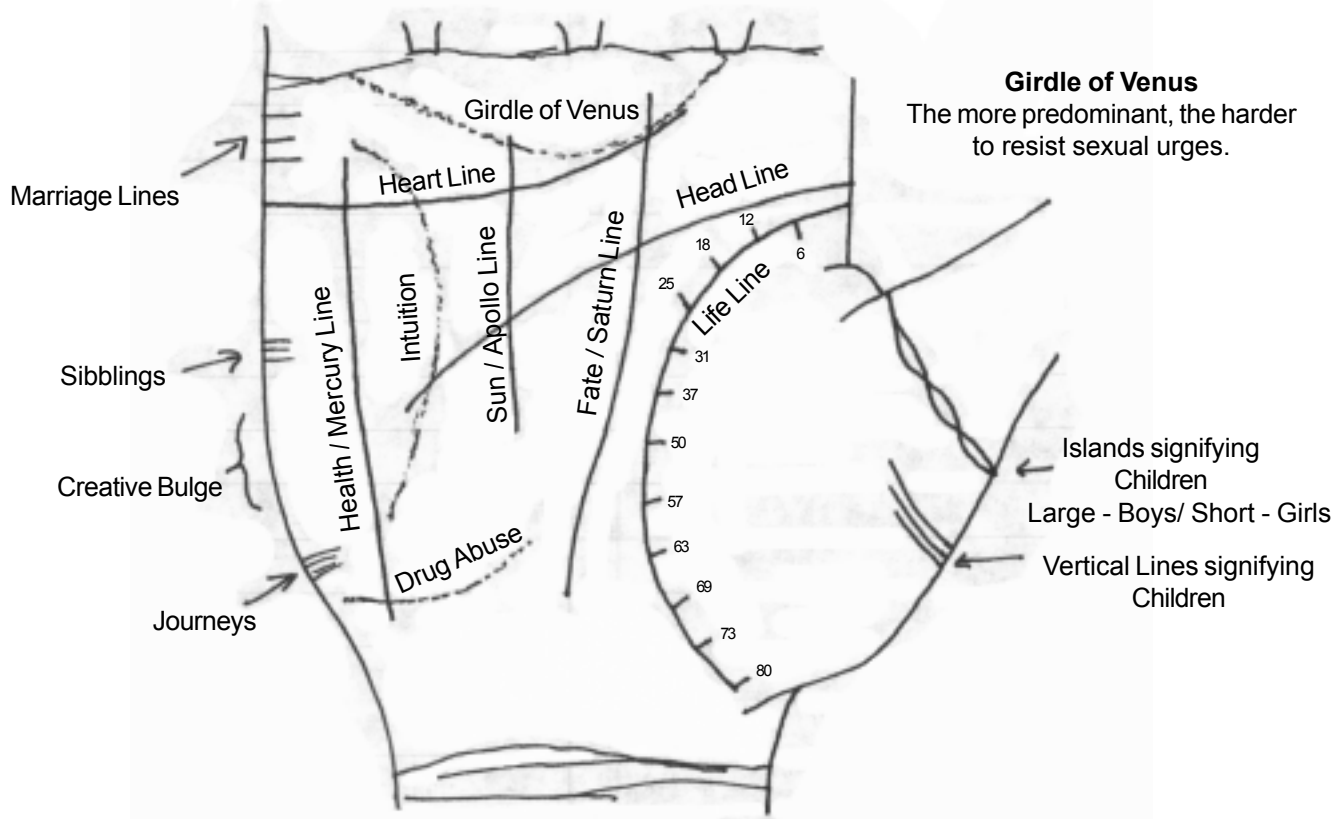
You have a very rich inner life and a good imagination, so much so that your fantasies may seem more real than reality. At worst, you are a dreamer. You quite possibly possess creative talents, but may have trouble focusing your energies to do anything with them.

Your introversion makes you withdraw from the world. You require constant encouragement if you are to surmount your anxiety and insecurity, and you too easily give up if you face criticism or opposition.

Because you are so sensitive, you may be a depressive or subject to paranoia. You tend to blame yourself for everything that goes wrong in your life. It is important that you stay away from alcohol and drugs, as an addiction may form.

Your intuition and natural sensitivity gives you a good understanding of others. Because you are a sympathetic listener, you are well-equipped to counsel and advise. Helping other people solve their difficulties helps you rise above your own. You may possess extra-sensory powers and with training you could become a capable medium or clairvoyant. Your sixth sense can give you warnings and insights that are not available to others.





**Girdle of Venus**  
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Vertical Lines signifying Children

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**What would you do...**

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*If the woman in your dreams was a vampire?*

*If you were dying would you want to taste immortality?*

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# Creepy Little Stories



*Christy Moeller-Masel is the author and illustrator better known as Madame 'M'. She has self-published two children's books of dark stories about her quirky creature friends, which have delighted kids and adults of all ages. Her first two books, "Creepy Little Bedtime Stories" and its sequel "Eerie Little Bedtime Stories", have earned rave reviews and awards, including the ABPA 2001 "Best Children's Fiction Award".*

*These hardcover books are hauntingly beautiful and feature deliciously ghoulish illustrations and tales of such characters as "Witchy Boo-Boo", "Target Man", and "Edgar, The Invisible Kid". She will soon be releasing "Trauma Queens/Trauma Kings" featuring more tragic treats for her fans.*

Interview by **Dan Shaurette**  
Dan@ShauretteNet.com  
<http://www.ShauretteNet.com>

Q. First off, Christy, thank you for this opportunity to interview you. I remember the first time I saw your first book; I was immediately awestruck by the cover artwork. Flipping through it and finding all of the wonderful drawings inside, I was immediately bewitched. When did you first come up with the idea for your Creepy Little Bedtime Stories?

A. When I was working as the Assistant Art Director for a magazine in 1996. I wanted to write and illustrate a gothic children's book. I was a little goth girl in the 80's and noticed that a lot of the teens that I had been gothy, punk with, now had families and were struggling with Barney issues. I thought it would be fun to give them a book that teaches the same sort of morals, but with a more gothic twist.

Q. If I may ask, how and when did you and your husband, "Wolfman Joe" meet?

A. I met my hairy little wolfman in Denver, Colorado on my birthday, 1990. I was at Oktoberfest with a friend of mine and we bumped into him and his friends. My friend had gone to high school with Joe and so she introduced us. Before that, however, his father was one of my college professors, so I knew a bit about him in advance. The girls in my class would talk about how cute our professor's son was.

Q. I'm sure he's been very supportive of your ventures, but what has he thought about being immortalized in your collection of stories?

A. He is very supportive and bears with me very well. He didn't seem to mind the new nickname since it really suited him well and the story I wrote is very much like him. It goes that he turns into a wolfman when he doesn't get his coffee, which is a pretty accurate portrayal.

Q. Besides Joe, how many people that you know have been the spark for a character you wrote about? How much of it came from your own life lessons that you wanted to share with your readers?

A. I would say that all of my characters are based on my real friends, family or situations that I have found myself in. I have a mini tape recorder so sometimes I will see something inspirational on the street and just start dictating it.

Q. Do you consider yourself to be a poet who can draw, an illustrator who can write, or equally suited to both art forms? Do you find one to be more challenging than the other?

A. I guess an illustrator that can write. The illustrating comes more naturally to me and many times the character is drawn first and then a story is built up around that. Like the "Two-Faced Girl." I drew her first and then thought about what life would be like for her. Also, after the drawing was done, I noticed that it could easily become a double image, with the girl's two faces becoming the face of William Shakespeare, so I worked that into the poem as well. The whole poem would be completely different if I had worked in reverse.

Q. How long have you been writing and drawing? Had you done anything else like this before your first book?

A. I had worked as a graphic artist and as the Assistant Art Director at a magazine for many years, so I had some background in the publishing industry. I have also helped others publish their books before actually doing my own, so that was a big help. As a child, I used to write and illustrate my own books for enjoyments. But as far as writing and illustrating an entire book for publication, this was my first time.

Q. As a father of four, I myself enjoy your stories, and love it when my kids ask me to read to them more of the stories, and read on their own. Would you consider yourself a Children's author, or would you ever write other genres? If so, have you written anything else, or at least been tempted to?

A. I do not think that my books are only for children, although they certainly are written on their level. Lately there has been a boom of children's books for adults and I like to think that my book can fall into that category just as easily. The book I am working on now, "Trauma Queens/Trauma Kings" is more of a children's book for adults than it is a "children's book", since many of the characters meet their demise. It will actually be sold more as a gift book.

Q. Did you leave another occupation to devote your life to Creepy Little Productions? Has this become a full-time job for you?

A. I was doing freelance work at the time that I was working on the first book. I have cut back quite a bit, but still will accept certain jobs if they appeal to me, usually book covers or something related to books.



*Lil' Spider Girl by  
Madame M*

Q. Did you try publishing your books through traditional houses before deciding to self-publish? Did you have an agent?

A. Not really. Before this book, I had designed an "Alice in Wonderland" pop-up book. It really would have been a nightmare to print because of all the small pieces that would have to be hand assembled, but I had faith in it. I sent samples to multiple publishers and got just as many rejection letters back. That is when I decided that it was not worth it to go through all that time and energy, just to leave issues that were important to me in other people's hands.

Q. Besides Phoenix, Arizona, where else have you lived? Have you found Arizona to be easier to publish and promote your books in?

A. I was born a military brat, so my list is pretty long. I have lived in Arizona (3 times), Texas, Arkansas, Ohio, Louisiana (3 times), Colorado, Alabama, Korea and Germany. Arizona has been very good to me. I think the people here are very genuine and supportive, not a lot of egos. They have given me a good amount of press. Southern California has also been a very good state for my books, so it must be a Southwestern thang.

Q. Do you travel often to promote your book? Where was the most exciting place you've been on tour?

A. Most of my tours outside of Arizona are in California, but my most exciting would probably be in Chicago. I may be doing one in Alaska soon, which should be interesting for a desert rat like myself.

Q. How do you define "success" and would you consider yourself and your books to be successful?

A. I don't think that success means that you have a lot of money per say, but rather that you are doing something that makes you happy and fulfilled. In that aspect, then I am truly successful. I'm positive I could be more financially stable working a corporate job, but being in an office all day zaps all the life out of me. Writing and illustrating are more in tune with being outdoors, staying up late and just being creative and those are things that are more important to me than having a lot of cash to blow.

Q. Is there anything you haven't written or otherwise done that you want to and look forward to doing?

A. More books and possibly an animation.

Q. Is there anything in particular, an author or favorite book, that has influenced and inspired you?

A. I enjoy reading stories that take the side of the character that is most misunderstood. One of my favorite books is exactly that. It's called "Wicked: The Life and Time of the Wicked Witch of the West" by Gregory MacGuire. After reading that book, I felt so bad for the Wicked Witch that it changed my perception of "The Wizard of Oz" forever. Of course, I have always loved Roald Dahl and Edward Gorey books, too, for their sort of gloomy way of looking at childhood.

Q. What would you say has been the hardest part of writing? What about getting published?

A. For writing, the hardest part is the fine tuning. A story may flow out in a few minutes, but the fine tuning can take weeks. For publishing, to me the production part is fun, but the marketing is tedious.

Q. What advice would you give for aspiring authors?

A. Write down every idea! An idea is only a thought until it is documented. Once you start writing things down, the ideas flow faster. I don't know about you, but my memory is not the greatest, either, so writing things down keeps all those ideas that would otherwise ooze out of my brain as I sleep. Also, believe in your own work. Maybe even self publish your first book, if nothing more than as a portfolio piece to show what you are capable of. It shows that you believe enough in yourself to invest in you and that sort of confidence shows.

*Madame M's official website is  
<http://www.creepylittlestories.com>*



# Thoughts From The Second Floor

by **Dmitri Arbacauskas**  
WinneganFake@hotmail.com

It's another of those sick nights in Seattle. The kind where you wish the music of other places blaring through your headphones would grab you and pull you through the floor. And these thoughts were coming from a time in my life where I thought and felt I'd been dragged down as far as I could let myself go. People drive by my window, screaming, "I'm not dead yet-" from their slick black car, the driver flooring it before the speaker can finish her sentence. Why she needed to justify herself to me like this, I don't know. Seeking pity? Trying to stir envy? I'm not sure. The only thing I am sure of is that words are still words, the City is a lying motherfucker, and that I need a cigarette.

My throat's starting to feel like Tom Wait's probably did when it shifted into that dry poetic rasp we all love him for. It's hot in here, with May almost over and a one week spring that's suddenly jolting all of us into summer. Writing hasn't done much for me lately, and as far as the quest for The Girl goes, I may as well give up all hope- doesn't look like she'll ever call back again. I've given up on the concept of The Girl, much less A girl for the time being. Too much has changed in my life lately, I've changed, and I'm only now starting to sit down and pull all the pieces back together in my head.

Almost a thousand cigarettes later, I come to the conclusion that I hate my environment. Not the City, lying bitch that it is; nor the work and the writing, just the people. The same people that constantly prove to me that humanity in droves are worse than flocks of sheep. The hordes of teenybopper students living near me, caring nothing for anything other than their good times, their revolution against society and their parents, and their so-called education. These kids wouldn't know a revolution if it stood them up in front of a firing squad- they've been led around the mall too many times by hack writers for Esquire and Cosmo.

Why this? Why rant on of revolution, stupid punks and my own shortcomings on a cold Sunday night in the City? Things come to a head sometimes, whether we want to realize it or not, whether we admit it to others or ourselves or not, and we must come to terms with those things before they blow up in our hands. Our shortcomings, whether they be physical, spiritual, social, or mental are the only things left binding us all together in the face of the coming storm. Our revolution? In these times, our revolution is one of simple survival; of refusing to admit ourselves into that padded cell we call normal reality. And as for those stupid punk kids driving past my window and scream-

ing their existence at me, they are unfortunately our hopes and fears - what we hope will change the face of reality, and what we fear giving in to.



Photo courtesy of Matthew Landers  
grampae@priest.com  
<http://grampae.tdotforums.com>

## Message

If things ceased to be,  
Would I remake everything the same  
Just so I could still deny god,  
Deny he exists?  
Shout that he doesn't take responsibility  
Even though I would be he.  
Now if god does exist  
Would she be able to accept...  
Would they take responsibility?  
Would they make themselves their own god?  
Or would they, like me,  
Deny their divinity  
In favor of commonality?  
Is that mad?  
Or is it a message?

by **Richard Priest**  
ring\_of\_pain@hotmail.com

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<http://ad4.acrimony.org>

# Is silver an antibiotic alternative?



by **Scarlett Crawford**  
scarlett@acrimony.org

After being almost forgotten for more than fifty years by the medical community, silver is making a big comeback in modern-day health science.

Silver has been known to be a remedy for centuries. Both the Greeks and Romans stored liquids in silver-lined containers to keep them fresh longer. American pioneers traveling west would put a silver dollar in milk to delay its spoilage. Native Americans added powdered silver to a newborn's first bath as protection against the environment. In 1834, the German obstetrician F. Crede administered silver nitrate to the eyes of newborn infants, virtually eliminating the gonococci bacteria which caused blindness. This practice continues today. In the late 1800's Western scientists were able to prove what had been known in Eastern medicine for literally thousands of years. That is, that silver is a proven germ fighter! By the early 1900's colloidal silver became the first choice of medical practitioners in fighting infections. It proved to be greatly effective and extremely safe to use, without the negative side effects associated with other drugs. The use of silver as a medicine was widespread until World War II when antibiotics became the standard treatment for infections. Even with antibiotics, silver suphadiazine is still regularly used to treat burn wounds. Recently, though concerns about overuse of antibiotics and the development of antibiotic-resistant bacteria has lead to a resurgence of silver's popularity.

Colloidal Silver is defined as a very small particle of silver, .01 to .005 microns in diameter (four hundred thousandths to twenty millionths of an inch), suspended in a different medium, such as a solid in a liquid. Today, it is most commonly produced by passing an electrical current over a couple of silver electrodes immersed in water. This creates microscopic particles of pure elemental silver held in suspension in water by an ionic bond. Because of the small particle size and electrical charge, the particles repel each other and thus theoretically stay suspended in the water indefinitely and do not settle out.

Proponents of colloidal silver say that it "strangles" over 650 disease-creating bacteria, fungi (including yeasts), viruses, and parasites by cutting off their oxygen supply

within six minutes. Because these microorganisms are suffocated, rather than poisoned, resistant strains fail to develop (the germs cannot mutate and develop). Researchers in Brigham Young University's department of microbiology were asked to test the antimicrobial activity of ASAP Solution, one of several colloidal silver solutions available as unregulated natural supplements. ASAP is produced by American Silver in Alpine, Utah County. The study compared ASAP to the top five classes of antibiotics. Both the silver and antibiotics were tested on a variety of microorganisms, including streptococci, pneumonia, E. coli, and salmonella. The results were in line with what natural healers have known for a long time. The Desert News quotes Dr. Leavitt as writing "The data suggests that with the low toxicity associated with colloidal silver, in general, and the broad spectrum of antimicrobial activity of this colloidal silver preparation, this preparation may be effectively used as an alternative to antibiotics."

Opponents, however, call it the snake oil of the day. They point out that use of silver preparations causes argyria, which is a permanent ashen-gray discoloration of the skin, conjunctiva, and internal organs that results from long-continued use of silver salts. (merksource.com) They also point out that the studies that have been conducted were all in vitro (in a test tube) and that any reliable study would need to be done in vivo (in the body). One of the leading voices against the use of compounds containing silver is Rosemary Jacobs. She had nasal drops prescribed for her in 1953, by a medical doctor, which contained silver for her allergies. Within three years of intermittent use she developed argyria, and has spent her entire life dealing with the ramifications of her disfigurement. "The victims of this disorder look as if they have been disinterred and yet they walk around and act otherwise normal," stated Ronald Mack, MD Maybe what we have here is another theory as to where vampiric lore originated.

The Federal Drug Agency has also dealt with this controversy. The FDA has issued a Final Rule declaring that all over-the-counter (OTC) drug products containing colloidal silver or silver salts are not recognized as safe and effective and are misbranded. In accordance with the Final Rule, a colloidal silver product for any drug use will first have to be approved by FDA under the new drug application procedures. The Final rule classifies colloidal silver products as misbranded because adequate directions cannot be written so that the general public can use these drugs safely for their intended purposes. They are also misbranded when their labeling falsely suggests that there is substantial scientific evidence to establish that the drugs are safe and effective for their intended uses. The Final Rule became effective on September 16, 1999. (FDA TALK PAPER August 17, 1999)

I personally have used colloidal silver for approaching ten years. I have used it on my children, my pets, and myself. We do not have grey - silver skin, but what we do have is a feeling of empowerment over the organisms that

share our environment and invade our bodies. At the first twang of an ear infection the children run to grab a bottle and place a few drops directly into their ear, never to need antibiotics; at the onset of a cold sore I apply it directly to the site, never does it develop into a full blown eruption. On my cat I have placed it directly into an open wound and on to a surgical incision, neither became infected. Almost all health food stores carry colloidal silver and it is widely available on the Internet, but the cost can be prohibitive. Retailing online from sixty-five dollars to two hundred and seven dollars for one gallon! And to think, we think gas is expensive! Alternatively, at [www.naturesalternatives.com](http://www.naturesalternatives.com) you can purchase a kit to make your own for forty-five dollars.



Colloidal Silver  
Generator from  
[www.naturesalternatives.com](http://www.naturesalternatives.com)

We do not take colloidal silver every day, just as we would not take a prescription antibiotic daily. We use common sense and hope that if we do turn silver, we can find employment in Hollywood.



## Signs?



by **Atreyana Star**  
[star@acrimony.org](mailto:star@acrimony.org)

Since before the release of M. Night Shymalan's Signs in 2002 crop circles have been a part of pop culture. Thousands are reported every year in over 70 countries. There is no doubt that these peculiar designs have been popping up in fields all over the world. But are they, as the movie suggests, an intricate mapping system used by extra terrestrials?

First lets delve into the history of crop circles. What are they exactly? Crop circles are unexplained designs that are created over the span of one night. They occur in a field of organic material or snow in which an impression can be made. Though the earliest known formation was in 1647, significant numbers began to appear in the early 1970's. These early circles were comprised of individual circles swirled in either a clockwise or counter-clockwise direction. A major change came in 1990 when the circles became complex pictograms composed of straight lines, angles, and spiral rings.

Crop circle societies have been developed to study this phenomena and determine their meanings and origins. These societies put forth wide-ranging theories about crop circles that span from elaborate hoaxes to a God force. One thing is clear. These societies have a problem agreeing on a method to test the validity of a formation. Due to the complexity of the patterns, some theories that imply a hoax or chemical reaction have been ruled out by most societies due to the molecular change that is found in the affected plants. One of the more popular theories was the Plasma Vortex Theory. A theory proposed by Dr. Terrence Meaden in the 1980's which attempted to explain spirally generated circle patterns as a product of natural atmospheric phenomena. Meaden compared the vortex to such natural happenings as dust devils and tornados, but also including friction-generated plasma that accounted for the anomalous light phenomena, which many eyewitnesses had seen. Meaden claimed the forces involved were until this time "unrecognized helical or toroidal forces" which had "subsidiary electromagnetic properties due to self-electrification." The vortex would apparently form high above the ground, then suddenly "break-down" to the ground level in an axial strike, much like lightning. The theory was reasonable for a number of years, with further corroboration obtained in Japan by Dr. Y.H.



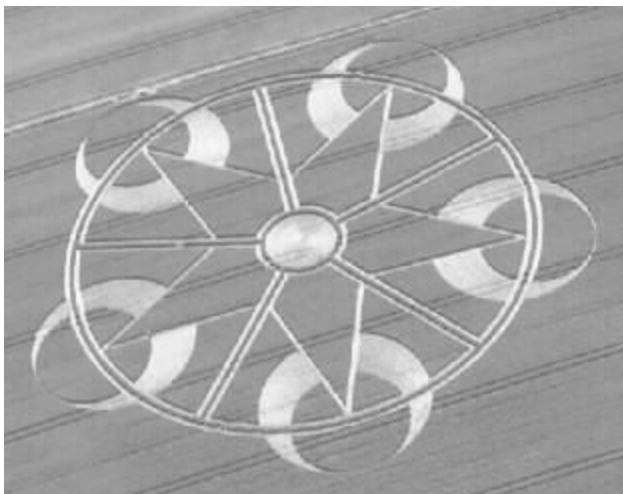
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Ohtsuki and Professor H. Ofuruton. Their lab research produced similar vortices by electrostatic discharge and microwave interference. Professor H. Kikuchi of Japan carried out theoretical work on the plasma-vortex theory. He modeled the vortex using energy potentials including an interaction term between an axial electric field and the earth's magnetic field.



*Avebury Wiltshire, July 2003  
Photo courtesy of Busty Taylor*

<http://www.busty-taylor.com/cropper/98busty2.htm>

The new intricacies of the patterns has led to new theories that have been developed to support the lines and angles used in crop formations. The Gaia Hypothesis by James Lovelock is one such theory. In summary it says that the Earth itself is using its own energy in order to create crop formations. The purpose being to send the inhabitants of Earth a message. What that message may be, Lovelock doesn't know. "The Earth," he says, "Behaves as if it were a super organism, made up from all the living things and from their material environment." Many speculate that the earth is trying to warn us about our damaging practices. If that is the message Earth is trying to get across it certainly is not a clear one. Perhaps instead of making undecipherable symbols in fields it should focus its energy and zap the pollutant directly.

All theories have the same basic downfall as the theory we see here. At some point, they break down. We find a person looking for connections other than UFO because UFO validity is something that is hard to test. The only proof there is of this being connected to the UFO phenomena are the accounts of both being seen in the same area. Perhaps we will have sifted through all the theories and hypothesis before something catastrophic shows us just where this phenomena originates and what it means. Whatever the cause, for now farmers are generally elated to have their fields "plagued" with this phenomena, because in the year following the crop occurrence their yields typically increase 30-40%. So Gaia or Aliens please continue to send us your message and we will continue to reap the benefits.



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## Astrological Symbols



by **Michael Ramses**  
[ramses@acrimony.org](mailto:ramses@acrimony.org)

Many people wonder what all the squiggly symbols associated with Astrology are. Here's a definitive guide.

## Elements



Earth



Air



Fire



Water

## **Signs**



Aries



Taurus



Gemini



Cancer



Leo



Virgo



Libra



Scorpio



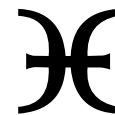
Sagittarius



Capricorn



Aquarius



Pisces

## **Planets**



Sun



Moon



Mercury



Venus



Mars



Jupiter



Saturn



Uranus



Neptune



Pluto

## **Aspects**



Conjunction



Semi-Sextile



Sextile



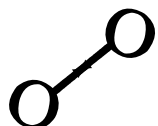
Square



Sesquiquadrate



Trine



Opposition



Semi-Square



Parallel



Quincunx

# Dead Like Me a Hit for Showtime

by CT Thompson  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

During the summer television hiatus, where reruns are the norm, *Dead Like Me* by Showtime is a refreshing change. The show focuses on the lives (afterlives) of 5 grim reapers, all of who died with unresolved issues. They each need to work out their problems and comprehend what they failed to understand during their mortality.



Georgia (Ellen Muth) is the lead in this new dark dramatic comedy. Her life is cut short at the tender age of 18 when a toilet seat from the re-entering MIR space station drives her into the pavement. She has trouble coming to terms with her new circumstances and even more trouble with the task of taking souls and escorting them to the beyond.

Right from the start you can see what type of show this is going to be. It is a comedy, but not of the standard sort. It's a change from the typical network sitcom. The show also contains drama. More than once Georgia tries to save those she is suppose to escort to the other side. Not knowing the cosmic rules however, Georgia's actions often lead to disaster.



Ellen Muth of *Dead Like Me*

The show offers up a great supporting cast. Mandy Patinkin, Rebecca Gayheart, and Jasmine Guy bring a wide range of talent to the series. Even if you don't know them by name you'll recognize their faces when they show up on the screen.

Showtime has had a hard time matching the success of rival premium network HBO. With the exception of *Stargate SG-1*, Showtime hasn't had any original series hits. Even *SG-1* moved to the SCI-FI network when Showtime could no longer fund the show. *Dead Like Me* offers real promise if the exceptional writing continues. There will always be an audience for a good witty, quirky, dramatic comedy that is exempt from the censorship rules of regular network television.

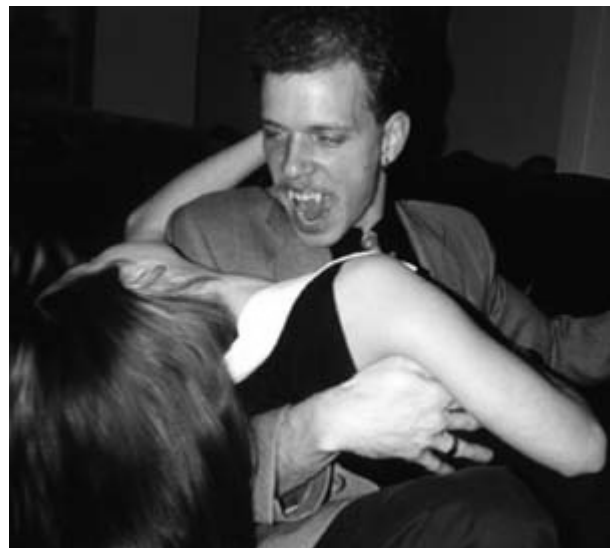
**Dead Like Me** airs Fridays at 10pm EST on Showtime



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# Ask Scarlett!



by **Scarlett Crawford**  
scarlett@acrimony.org

Dear Scarlett,

I met this guy online and sent him a picture of a really hot girl before I thought anything would happen with him. But now I have fallen in love with him. How do I tell him I have been lying to him all this time?

Liar in love,

You don't. Do you really think he has been totally honest with you? Hell no! I am sure he hasn't told you about how he rates the scent of his farts, or much he enjoys clogging the toilet. But if you really think he is the one, then I would tell him a half-truth. Tell him that it is a very good picture of you from when you went to one of those glamour shots places a few years ago and then send him a real picture. If love is truly in the air, he will think the real you is as hot as the wanna be you.

Dear Scarlett,

It seems that no matter what I do, I am never happy. I think I want ice cream, so I buy some only to find out I didn't really want it. Or it might be a new dress or outfit. I zigzag all over the place without direction. What do you suggest?

Floundering in Hagen Das,

Have you considered Paxil? On a more serious note, do you like yourself? If not, why? The key to happiness lies within you. If you do not like who you are, no matter what you are doing or who you are with, you will still be unhappy. Do you meditate? I would suggest meditation as an avenue to discovering who you really are and what changes you need to bring about in your life to achieve happiness. All of the answers you seek are contained within yourself. Change can be difficult to create, and often is very painful. Think of it as a butterfly's journey. As that butterfly meditates inside of the cocoon, the awareness of the need to fly becomes overwhelming. However, in order to fly, he must bring about change. He must break free of his cocoon. This is painful and time consuming. But his focus on what his destiny is carries him thru it. You must find your goal and break free of whatever holds you back. If an insect can do it, so can you!

Dear Scarlett,

If someone is gothic, does that mean that they are evil? The people I have seen look spooky and mysterious, yet at the same time they have sparked my interest.

Ga-Ga over Goths,

I think calling an entire sub-culture evil is a bit overboard. Goths do tend to be drawn to the macabre side of life, but I wouldn't consider that evil. If all of your clothes are white, does that mean you are angelic? I think not. Being gothic is a choice of lifestyle, an expression of their personal travesty. What about the Gothic nation has sparked your interest? Is it the dramatic appearance, or maybe just your need to get in touch with your darker side? Explore your inner fears, and get back to me.

Dear Scarlett,

I think I might be bisexual but I just can't come to terms with it how do you suggest I deal with it?

Befuddled Bisexual,

I have your answer! You need to visit an adult store, ask the cashier or maybe a trusted friend to help you pick out a movie. If you are too shy to go in person, look into online stores. There are many out there and a reputable site will ship in confidentiality. I love <http://www.adameve.com> and personally shop there for my special needs.

If you believe yourself to be bisexual, you'll respond to the stimulation favorably, if not, you'll at least know that you didn't have to leave the comfort and safety of your own abode to find out.

I believe that everyone is bisexual, we all just have a preference. Some people lean to the heterosexual side and some to the homosexual side. But for every so-called "straight" person, I believe that there is someone of the same sex out there who can rock his or her world. If you are so consumed by this issue as to have written to me, guess what? You are bi.

Dear Scarlett,

Will you marry me?

Matrimonial mayhem,

Do you have any clue what you are getting into? So I'm cute... So what! Do you propose to every cute girl you see on the Internet? Let me set forth my requirement for any possible nuptial mates. They are as follow:

- 1) You must rich - I have expensive taste and I will not hesitate to spend your money.
- 2) You must be well endowed - been there done that got the t-shirt **SIZE DOES MATTER**
- 3) You must be secure - I am the attention freak, not you
- 4) You must be totally tolerant - I have permanent PMS
- 5) You must have the libido of a high school teen on Viagra - three times a day minimum

If you feel that you meet these basic requirements, feel free to email me for the extended list of prerequisites.



Scarlett's column is run exclusively in *Acrimony*. Email your question to her at [scarlet@acrimony.org](mailto:scarlet@acrimony.org)

## Paranormal, Myth, or Hoax?



by **Atreyana Star**  
[star@acrimony.org](mailto:star@acrimony.org)

A short forty minute drive from a well known submarine base in Groton, Connecticut exists a park with a rather questionable history. Devil's Hopyard State Park in East Haddam, Connecticut is a place of summer fun for those who are unaware of the past that is hidden by the lush landscape. Most go there for a picnic or a night out beneath the stars while camping. Two years ago a group called Entity Seekers ventured out to investigate the paranormal occurrences and reports. I was a member of that group.

Upon arriving at Devil's Hopyard, we found a sign that listed several of the parks legends. The most common legends involve the prince of darkness himself. Supposedly he was walking along a stream when he came to Chapman's Falls. There he stopped and got his tail wet. In his anger he stormed off leaving deep hoof prints in the rocks below. Yet another legend portrays him as a violin player. His music accompanies the evil witches of East Haddam as they stir their wicked brews in their cauldron-like holes in the rocks. Still another tale tells of a Native

American tribe that performed "blood rituals" at the falls causing the water to flow red like blood. Truth be told, the deep holes in the rocks that line the bottom of the falls have a simple geological explanation. Stones that were pulled downstream by the waters current formed the holes. Later they were trapped in an eddy where the stones were spun. This wearing motion left depressions in the rocks. When a rock became worn down, another would catch in the same hole and enlarge it. Though the odd formations have been found to have a logical explanation, paranormal events have been reported there for nearly 100 years.

Entity Seekers ([www.entityseekers.com](http://www.entityseekers.com)) wanted to conduct a paranormal investigation of the site. We mingled around the parks trails until dark. Armed with cameras, camcorders, EMF (electro-magnetic field) meter, and our senses we set off on a small jaunt around the falls. It seemed the closer to the falls we were the more eerie of a feeling we received. We carefully made our way down to a covered bridge, snapping shots in particularly creepy areas. As we entered the bridge area, a member of the group sensed something swirling around his neck. The sensation became stronger as he neared the center of the bridge. The EMF meter detected sporadic surges in the area. We stayed for a short while then made our way back. Along the path, I felt as though my breath was suddenly taken away and an all-encompassing cold feeling had engulfed my body. The feeling was short, but it was clear and real. When we arrived back at our vehicles we stopped to take some readings near the entry to the parking area. The readings were higher than most areas we had been in before. We sat there for a little while longer and took some photos. The empathic person in the group was sure he could feel "something".

Overall the night was not completely uneventful. There was some sort of paranormal activity in the park that night. The photographs that we took revealed some interesting things. Photos of the bridge when developed revealed small orb lights that we did not see while there.

Is the park properly named Devil's Hopyard? Well, that I don't know. Perhaps it should be renamed Paranormal Playground.



*Devil's Falls in Devil's Hopyard State Park*



# Meditation

## The 4-4 Energizing Breath



by **CT Thompson**  
ctthompson@acrimony.org

This is a quick and simple meditation meant for people on the go. You can do this meditation anytime, anywhere. It is very effective at battling fatigue, combating runaway emotions, and general rejuvenation.

This meditation only takes a few minutes. For optimal results, perform it 2 to 3 times per day. If you carefully plan your schedule you'll find that you have no trouble in setting aside the time necessary. This meditation will quite literally jumpstart you into a second wind when you are exhausted.

### The Process:

Sit straight, back slightly arched. Your palms should be together in front of your heart chakra and your fingers pointing toward your chin. Your eyes should be closed. Take in a deep breath and break it into 4 equal parts. As you are doing this, pump your navel chakra. By the fourth breath your lungs should be full.

Hold for a moment.



Begin your exhale, do so in the same manner as you inhalation. 4 equal parts. Your lungs should be empty on the fourth breath.

Repeat the above process for 2 to 5 minutes.

A variation is to press the palms together very hard and vigorously. This variation takes only 1 minute and then you should be recharged.

Another variation is to add the mantra: "Sa - Ta - Na - Ma" on both inhale and exhale. You'll need to do this in your mind, unless you are capable of speaking while breathing.

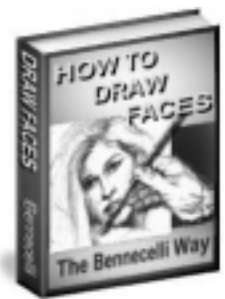
Sa = Infinity | Ta = Life | Na = Death | Ma = Rebirth

When you are ready to finish, inhale deeply and press your palms together very forcibly for 10 to 15 seconds. Your body should also stiffen during this hold. Exhale quickly. Repeat. On the second exhale, relax for a moment. If you feel you need further rest, lie on your back for 2 to 5 minutes breathing easily and deeply.



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# Haunted History: The Hotel San Carlos

by Dan Shaurette

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From the penthouse that stands on the roof of the seven-story tall Hotel San Carlos in Phoenix, one can get a unique perspective on Copper Square. Downtown Phoenix has changed radically since the hotel was built in 1928. When the hotel opened, it was a luxurious oasis in the desert, featuring air-cooled rooms, a predecessor of modern air-conditioning. At that time it was also the tallest building, which featured the first elevator in Phoenix. These days about all you can see from the penthouse is the other high-rise buildings towering overhead. Seventy-five years ago however, from this rooftop, you could see the young city of Phoenix rising from the ashes of this old Hohokam settlement.

It was from that very roof that 22-year old Leone Jensen decided to end her life. She was dressed in a white evening gown as she had expected to enjoy a night on the town with her boyfriend. After her dreams for a wonderful night of dancing were shattered, she decided she could not live with a broken heart. She made her way to the roof of the brand new hotel, looked over the edge to the streets below, and jumped to her death, thus giving Phoenix its first suicide.

Ever since that night of May 7, 1928, guests of the Hotel San Carlos have reported many sightings of her ghost. Typically, she is seen as the "white cloud of a woman's figure, accompanied by unexplainable breezes". While some guests may find the idea of the hotel being haunted either exciting or frightening, it has become an accepted responsibility for working at the hotel. For example, the housekeeping staff are so superstitious that they refuse to work on a floor alone; it has become standard procedure now that they work in teams of two or three, no matter what floor they work on.

Leone is probably the most famous permanent resident of the San Carlos, but she is by no means the only ghost. Guests have also reported hearing the sounds of at least three or four children running up and down the hallways, laughing and playing. The story of these children can be traced to a history before the hotel was built, but I shall take a moment and go even further into our prehistory.

Jumping backwards in time roughly 400 years, the Native American tribe known to us today as the Hohokam, made the Rio Salado valley their home. In the heart of this valley, an underground countercurrent water spring provided refreshment to the tribe. The natives wor-



*The Hotel San Carlos in Phoenix, Arizona  
Photo by CT Thompson*

shipped their god of Knowledge and Learning at this spot. They believed that from this spring came *mahchig*, or great knowledge. Whatever great wisdom they gleaned there however was lost when the tribe was forced to move on. It was the modern Pima tribes who named them *huhugam*, or "those who have gone."

Fast forward again to the early settlement of Phoenix, this very same spring was re-discovered and tapped with a well. Phoenix's very first schoolhouse was built on this site in 1874, with this well water providing refreshment to a new generation of students. It was a one-room adobe building with a dirt floor, but it served the humble forefathers of our town well. Five years later, in 1879, that building was replaced with a two-story brick building - only the fourth brick building in Phoenix. At that time, it was the northernmost building along Center Street, now known as Central Avenue. In 1893, the brick schoolhouse was expanded to sixteen rooms.

It was at some time during the late 1890's that we have different accounts of three or four boys drowning in the well. The school building was eventually declared unsafe, condemned, and the property put up for sale in 1916. Could these be the boys who can still be heard playing in the hallways of the Hotel San Carlos?

This very special well is still in use today; it resides in the basement of the Hotel San Carlos. It serves as the sole source of water to the guests of the hotel. The

San Carlos is the only building in Phoenix that is not part of the city's water supply. Even today, hotel guests remark to the staff about the high quality of the cool, refreshing water that comes from the original, antique brass fixtures in their rooms.



*The penthouse atop the Hotel San Carlos  
Photo by CT Thompson*

The penthouse that resides on the roof has a very interesting story of its own to tell. Charles Harris owned half of the hotel, and also managed it with his wife Elsie and their two sons. Mr. Harris had the penthouse built on the roof for his family to live in. When Charles Harris died in 1946 of natural causes, the hotel went into his family trust. The Harris family moved out and let the trust take over management of the hotel. The original intention was to rent the penthouse out to VIP guests, including some of the many Hollywood actors who frequented the hotel. However, to this day, the penthouse has never and will never be rented out. Yet, work is always being done to maintain it. Electricity is still supplied to it, and it is kept air-conditioned. An expensive proposition to say the least, especially if there are no living guests staying in the penthouse.

All told, the Hotel San Carlos is a wonderful break from the bustle of Downtown Phoenix. It is still a well-appointed hotel, with fine amenities, including a sun deck and swimming pool on the third floor. It has recently been added to the charter of hotels listed by the Historic Hotels of America. Its Italian Renaissance-influenced architecture, and original antique fixtures, put it in a class by itself.

For Hollywood history buffs, you will enjoy seeing the "San Carlos Hollywood Star Walk", which was inlaid on both the Central and Monroe sidewalks in front of the

hotel in March 1993. Each sidewalk star names a famous movie star or big band leader who stayed at the hotel while they played in one of the nearby theatres, like the recently restored Orpheum Theatre. There are also suites in the hotel that are named after the stars that stayed in them.

The hotel sits in the heart of Downtown Phoenix, which puts it in great proximity to major local events at Bank One Ballpark, America West Arena, and conventions at the Civic Center. The fact that it is haunted is just icing on the cake for completing a truly unique experience.

**Hotel San Carlos**  
**202 North Central Ave.**  
**Phoenix, AZ 85004**

Call (602)253-4121  
or visit <http://www.hotelsancarlos.com>  
for booking information.

*Dan Shaurette is a native Phoenician and local writer of poetry and prose, who spends a great deal of time pretending not to be a goth, but all this proves is that he's really good at the masquerade.*



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# Calendar

## Conferences

**Sounding Common Chords: Tibetan Buddhism & Cayce**  
**August 7th through August 10th 2003**  
**Virginia Beach, Virginia, USA**

Tibetan monk Geshe Kunkhen with Reverends Chris & Sharon Fazel. Explore the intriguing commonalities found between Tibetan Buddhism and Mystical Christianity. Join hands across cultural boundaries, engendering hope for the world.

<http://www.EdgarCayce.org>  
**(800) 333-4499**  
**Price: \$25 - \$275 (Depending on your age)**

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**Alternative Energy, Living, and Building Fair**  
**August 30th through September 1st 2003**  
**Crestone, Colorado, USA**

Live music, food vendors, and artisans along with alternative energy contractors and developers presenting their products and designs. "Alternative Homes" not normally open to the public are available for tours.

<http://energy.CrestoneColorado.com>  
**info: Talmath Mesenbrink (719) 558-8276**  
**info: Allison Rae (719) 256-4860**

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## Conventions

**Burning Man**  
**August 25th through September 1st 2003**  
**Black Rock Desert, Nevada, USA**

Join the 25,000+ people expected to attend this year in an eclectic pool of art and self-expression. You're not the weirdest kid in sight anymore. Brave the desert and come to Burning Man this year!

<http://www.BurningMan.com>  
**(415) 863-5263**  
**Price: \$225 in advance. \$250 at the gate. Under 12 free with adult. No one under 18 without adult.**

**Arcana 33**  
**September 26th through September 28th 2003**  
**Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA**

A convention of the Dark Fantastic

<http://pages.prodigy.net/rekal>  
**(612) 721-5959**  
**Price: \$25 before Labor Day, \$35 after**

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**Goth Con**  
**October 30th through November 1st 2003**  
**Atlanta, Georgia, USA**

A 4 day convention that has everything Goth. Grab your fishnet and mascara and jump on the bus!

<http://www.GothCon.org>  
**Price: \$48 / 4 day pass**

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## Concerts

**The Demon Machine Tour (Phoenix)**  
**August 4th 2003**  
**The Cajun House, 7117 E. 3rd Ave.**  
**Phoenix, Arizona, USA**

Bands: Bile, Nocturne, Eroticide, DeSade  
Guest DJ: Martin Atkins (Pigface)

<http://iCandyMediaworks.com>  
**Price: \$8 in Advance, \$12 at the Door**  
**Doors open at 7:30pm. 18 & over, Bar w/ID**

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**Dracula's Ball**  
**August 30th 2003**  
**Club Shampoo, 7th and Willow**  
**Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, USA**

DJs: Ronan & Mark (VNV Nation), Addam Bombb, Black Badtz  
Bands: Stromkern, Carfax Abbey

<http://www.DraculasBall.com>  
**Price: \$13 in Advance, \$15 at the Door**  
**Doors open at 9:00pm**

# Horoscopes

by **Michael Ramses**



**ARIES** (March 21 - April 19): Uranus and Mars are in conjunction this month, which means your creative and psychic energies are blessed. It is a good time to look to the future and begin new endeavors. However, you must take care not to overextend yourself. Additional care must be taken to control the excessive energy of Mars, which could lead to outbursts of anger and rage. When in doubt, calm yourself and rely on your intuition. Intuition is a byproduct of your psychic energies.



**TAURUS** (April 20 - May 20): Venus and the Sun remain in conjunction all month long. This is beneficial because the Sun strengthens Venus's rule over finances. Your artistic qualities will also blossom this month if you take time out from your pressing business needs. In the middle of the month, Venus and Pluto move into a trine alignment. This lends to the potential of extreme change, but of an advantageous nature. Don't be afraid to leap.



**GEMINI** (May 21 - June 20): There is a lot going on with Gemini this month. You may be pulled in so many directions that you think you are about to bust at the seams. Most of these aspects are positive. Mercury in Virgo along with Jupiter in Leo will enhance your thinking process. You will also communicate yourself and your needs better than usual this month. However, Mercury and Pluto come into a square alignment that has the potential for chaos. You must think twice to avoid making bad decisions. Seek out council wherever it is available to you.



**CANCER** (June 21 - July 22): August brings a new way of thinking for you. You will make more correct choices than incorrect ones. The crescendo for the month will be reached on August 19th, when the moon is at its apogee. You will be at your peak. If you don't follow your instincts your dreams will intensify showing you the way. Your biggest obstacle this month will be your fear. Overcome that, break through the boundaries and you will be very successful.



**LEO** (July 23 - Aug. 22): The conjunction of the Sun and Venus are as beneficial to you as it is to Taurus this month. Look for the opportunity to leap forward in your finances, but be wary of

invisible pitfalls. If care is taken, you will do fine. The position of Pluto in Sagittarius means changes you make could have very lasting repercussions down the road. Nearer to the end of the month this is doubly true as the Sun moves into Virgo and is then in conjunction with Pluto.



**VIRGO** (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22): This month offers an opportunity for you to break free of whatever is holding you back spiritually. Listen to yourself! You will tell yourself what you want and need. There is no need to second-guess. Now for the bad news. If you are not careful bad financial decisions will be made which will have lasting results on your life. Stay out of the market and hide your money under your mattress. This month is a time for inner growth, not outer.



**LIBRA** (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22): As with Taurus and Leo you will benefit from the conjunction of the Sun and Venus this month. Your communication skills will be superb in the beginning of August, but will suffer a steady decline throughout the month. Emotions run high in the middle of the month, and you must take care that your rage does not overcome common sense. The end of the month is worse. You will suffer from lack of direction. Your love life has the potential to turn tumultuous. Communication is the key, don't shut people out.



**SCORPIO** (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21): The beginning to middle of the month is definitely the best time for you. There will be many beneficial alignments with Venus, Jupiter, and Pluto. If you are not involved, it is a good time to begin a new relationship. This relationship will have the potential to last for some time to come. If you are already involved then this is the time to strengthen your relationship. This power degrades later in the month when Mars comes into a square alignment with Pluto. Anger and jealousy will hurt attempts at this point. Furthermore, impulses will run high later in August.



**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21): This is a strange month indeed for Sagittarius. The beginning of the month will bring a great time for business transaction. The middle of the month will bring further favorable conditions as the Sun, Venus, and Jupiter all move into conjunction. By the 15th, you should have your business affairs well in

order. The end of the month brings unfavorable conditions as Jupiter and Pluto move into a square alignment. At this point there is the potential for detrimental financial change if care is not taken.



**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19): This is a good month for Capricorn. At times you will be feeling so good-natured that your charity may reach new levels. Now more than ever is the time to help the needy and suffering. Business matters are fine, no need to worry. At the end of the month your passions will run wild, but in a positive manner. Love and lust are strong at the end of August. Take a chance, it will pay off.



**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18): Mars and Uranus are in conjunction all month long. This is very good for you. You can focus on your inner needs and attain full and lasting results. With very little effort, you should be able to keep your negative emotions in check. You will feel constrained in the beginning of the month, but that is easily conquered if you try. Just remember that this is a time to work on "you".



**PISCES** (Feb. 19 - March 20): This will be a hard month for you. Social injustices will bother you more than normal. Your intuition will be repressed making decision making more difficult. You need to persevere and get through this time. Business and love matters are fair, no major spikes in either direction. This month you should be in a "holding pattern". Don't start new projects unless it is very necessary to do so.



*Michael Ramses has been a horoscope writer for over 12 years. His speciality is personal natal charts. Look for his column right here in Acrimony each month.*

## Vampire Fangs



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<http://ad1.acrimony.org>

# Weird News

## Witch sues for prayer rights

**Richmond, Virginia** - A Wiccan witch in Chesterfield county is suing the Board of Supervisors for the right to open meetings with a Wiccan prayer.

Country representatives disagree that they are violating the woman's civil rights. Previous Supreme Court decisions have held that the government may strictly limit opening prayers in order to represent the populace as a whole.

Cynthia Simpson, 47, filed suit in December when the Board refused to add her name to a list of clergy members who regularly open county meetings with prayer. Ms. Simpson said she filed the lawsuit after county officials refused to return her phone calls. Board officials were also making public comments ridiculing Wicca.



Magistrate Dohnal, who was assigned the case, did not state when he would make a ruling.

## Man assaults ambulance technician

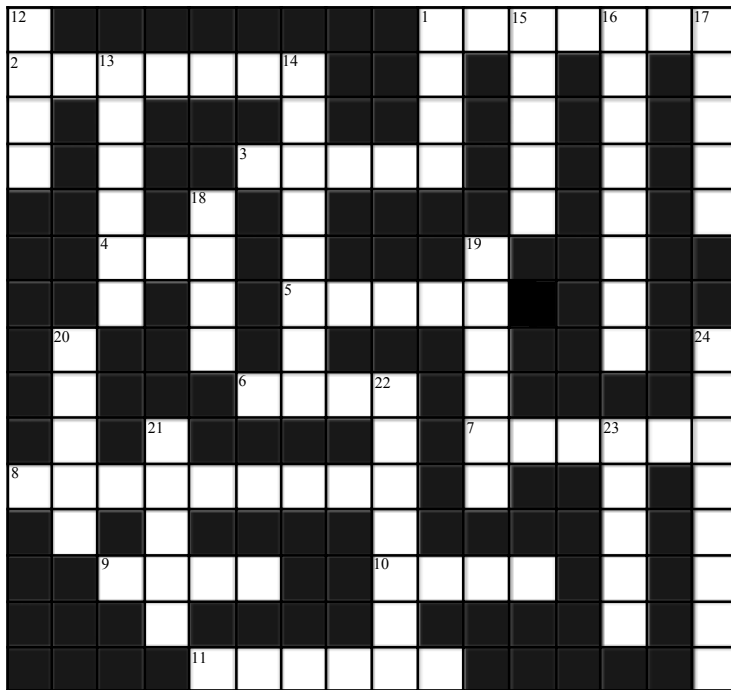
**Scotland** - It was an ordinary day for the ambulance crew. They were responding to a call where a 26-year-old man collapsed. After being taken to the hospital, the man, later identified as Christian McLeod, started becoming aggressive.



Then suddenly, without any warning, McLeod punched one of the ambulance crew. Andrew Kennan, an ambulance technician, took the shot much to his amazement.

During sentencing McLeod claimed he had frequent problems with heroin and alcohol and had been on a self-imposed detoxification program during the incident. McLeod was sentenced to 180 hours of community service.

## Gothic Crossword



### BRAIN TEASER

Eric and Mary were sitting in their family room one night. While Eric was watching television his wife Mary was reading. All of a sudden the power went out and Eric decided to go to bed, but Mary kept on reading. With no use of artificial light, Mary kept on reading. How?

### Across

1. 8th sign of the Zodiac.
2. Vlad Tepesh.
3. The Daywalker.
4. The Lion.
5. Socially unacceptable.
6. Ra's wife.
7. Ethereal state.
8. Christian symbol prior to 1000 A.D.
9. Luna.
10. *Crux Ansata* in Latin.
11. When the moon grows from new to full.

### Down

1. A Vampire's father.
12. Original man.
13. Elohim's warriors.
14. Lost continent.
15. The hunter.
16. A chain ten to twelve inches in length with a weight at the base.
17. Witchboard.
18. Self-absorbed.
19. Astrology.
20. Greek Hell.
21. One of the Three Musketeers
22. Wiccan Halloween.
23. Ancient Nordic alphabet.
24. Christianity, Hindu, and Wicca.



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